

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 12 April 1990

The week in statistics ...

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Due to the incidence of public holidays, the next issue of *Statistics Weekly* will be released on Thursday, 26 April.

Public sector leads in training expenditure

The first national survey of employer training expenditure found that Australian employers spent an amount equivalent to 2.2 per cent of gross wages and salaries on the formal training of their employees during the three months to September 1989.

This represents an average of \$133 per employee over the period, or five and a half hours of training.

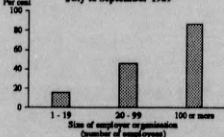
The survey found that public sector employers committed the equivalent of 3.3 per cent of their payroll to training — almost double the 1.7 per cent committed on average by private sector employers.

Employers in the electricity, gas and water industry and the communication industry spent the highest proportion on formal training (3.7% of gross wages and salaries). Those in the recreation, personal and other services industry spent the least (0.9%).

EMPLOYER TRAINING EXPENDITURE
July to September 1989

Industry	Per employee (\$)	As percentage of wages and salaries
Mining	186	2.0
Manufacturing	142	2.2
Electricity, gas and water	274	3.7
Construction	83	1.2
Wholesale and retail trade	73	1.5
Transport and storage	175	2.5
Communication	262	3.7
Finance, property and business services	151	2.4
Public administration and defence	174	2.6
Community services	142	2.5
Recreation, personal and other services	36	0.9
All industries	133	2.2

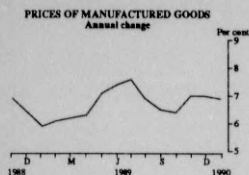
EMPLOYER TRAINING
Percentage of employers with training expenditure
July to September 1989



Employers spent more on in-house training (the equivalent of 1.6% of gross wages and salaries) than on external training (0.6%).

Although only 22 per cent of all employers incurred formal training expenditure in the period, almost 90 per cent of larger employers spent something (see chart).

For further information, order the publication *Employer Training Expenditure, Australia (6353.0)*, or contact Robert McCombe on (06) 252 6660.



Prices of manufactured goods continue to rise

Prices of manufactured goods rose by 0.4 per cent in January 1990, with the annual increase of 6.9 per cent down slightly on the 7.0 per cent recorded in December.

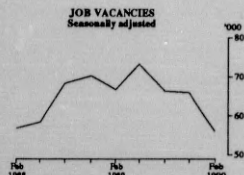
A large number of price increases contributed to January's movement, the main ones being raw sugar, refined petroleum products and motor vehicles. The increases were partly offset by decreases, in particular for meat and refined silver and lead.

The table below shows price changes for selected manufacturing sectors.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, JANUARY 1990
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Food and beverages	- 0.1	7.8
Clothing and footwear	1.2	8.5
Chemicals and petroleum	1.1	11.7
Basic metal products	- 0.5	3.6
Fabricated metal products	1.0	7.8
Transport equipment	0.7	5.4
Other industrial machinery	0.0	3.9
All manufacturing industry	0.4	6.9

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0)*, or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

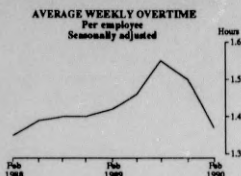


Further signs of tighter job market

Both job vacancies and average weekly overtime fell significantly in seasonally adjusted terms in the three months to February 1990.

Estimates for February show that the total number of job vacancies in Australia was 56,100, a fall of 15 per cent from November 1989 and 15.9 per cent in the twelve months since February 1989.

Weekly overtime hours, whether expressed per employee or per employee working overtime, decreased in the three month period, as did the proportion of employees working overtime.



Seasonally adjusted, 19.1 per cent of employees were working overtime in February 1990, a fall from 19.7 per cent in November 1989. Those that were working overtime averaged 7.3 hours a week — down from 7.6 hours in November.

Original data for February 1990 show that the manufacturing sector recorded significant falls in both the proportion of employees working overtime and average weekly overtime hours.

The transport, storage and communications industry also recorded significant falls in both indicators, while the electricity, gas and water group went against the trend with rises in all the overtime measurements.

On the job vacancy side, the largest declines between November 1989 and February 1990 were recorded in wholesale and retail trade, and community services.

For further information, order the publication *Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia* (6354.0), or contact Janet Gunn on (06) 252 6572.

Farm sector grows ... and so does its debt

Australian agricultural industries recorded an estimated turnover of \$19.5 thousand million in 1988-89, an annual increase of 4.2 per cent on top of a very large rise in the previous year.

The turnover yielded an estimated cash operating surplus of \$5,172 million. This was a rise of 3.5 per cent and also followed a big rise in the previous year.

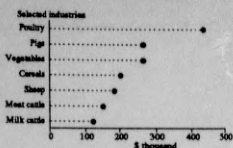
However, preliminary results from the ABS Agricultural Finance Survey for 1988-89 also show that farmers faced a sharply rising burden of interest payments. The amount of interest paid, at \$1,625 million, was up by 10.3 per cent after a fall of 6.8 per cent in 1987-88.

With net capital expenditure rising 16.8 per cent after an increase of more than 29 per cent the previous year, gross indebtedness of the agricultural sector was up 7.5 per cent to \$12,277 million.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES, 1988-89

	\$ million	Percentage increase from previous year
Turnover	19,494	4.2
Cash operating surplus	5,172	3.5
Net capital expenditure	1,829	16.8
Gross indebtedness	12,277	7.5
Interest paid	1,625	10.3

AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES, 1988-89
Average turnover per enterprise



Average gross debt actually fell in the poultry, cereal grains and meat cattle-cereal grains industries, but rose in all other industries surveyed.

The largest agricultural enterprises, in terms of average turnover per enterprise, were in the poultry industry (\$435,000), and the lowest were in the milk cattle industry (\$121,000).

For further information, order the publication *Agricultural Industries, Financial Statistics, Australia, Preliminary (7508.0)*, or contact *Graham O'Connor* on (06) 252 5224.

Hospitality growth defined

Australia's accommodation industry showed strong employment growth (up 37%) and a massive 45 per cent growth in real turnover in the seven years to 1987.

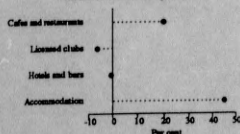
These are among the main findings of the recently released final results of the 1987 ABS survey of the hospitality sector.

The size of the hospitality sector at the time of the survey is shown in the table below.

HOSPITALITY SECTOR, AUSTRALIA, 1986-87

	Cafes and restaurants	Licensed clubs	Hotels and bars	Accommodation industry	Total hospitality sector
Number of enterprises	8,489	3,927	4,986	4,841	22,243
Employment	85,974	52,336	82,644	56,364	277,318
Turnover (\$ million)	2,584	2,636	4,808	2,282	12,309
Net operating surplus (\$ million)	222	229	371	311	1,132

GROWTH IN HOSPITALITY INDUSTRIES
Percentage change 1980 to 1987 in
turnover at constant prices



In the sector between 1980 and 1987:

- ☐ employment grew by 39,000, (over 16%), mostly in the accommodation and cafes and restaurants industries;
- ☐ turnover increased in real terms by over 8 per cent reflecting substantial increases in the cafes and restaurants (20%) and accommodation industries (45%), a small decline (7%) for licensed clubs, and an unchanged position for hotels and bars;
- ☐ profitability, measured by net operating surplus as a percentage of turnover, declined in this period from 10.5 per cent to 9.2 per cent. Even the accommodation industry, where turnover grew most in the period, suffered a substantial drop in profitability, down from 17.3 per cent to 13.6 per cent.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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All the week's releases: 4 to 10 April

General

Time Series Service, December Qtr 1989 (1311.0; magnetic tape (\$400) or microfiche (\$100))

Statistics Weekly, 5 April 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Imports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables, February 1990 (5433.0; \$8.00)

Exports, Aust., December Qtr 1989 (5434.0; \$16.25)

Lease Finance, Aust., January 1990 (5644.0; \$5.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., February 1990 (6203.0; \$13.00)

Average Weekly Earnings, States and Aust., November Qtr 1989 (6302.0; \$8.50)

Industrial Disputes, Aust., January 1990 (6321.0; \$5.50)

Employer Training Expenditure, Aust., July to September 1989 (6353.0; \$15.00) — *new issue*

Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., January 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)

Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., February 1990 (7215.0; \$5.00)

Agricultural Industries, Financial Statistics, Aust., 1988–89, Preliminary (7508.0; \$5.00)

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, February 1990 (7204.3; \$3.30)

Secondary industry and distribution

Production of Food, Drink, Tobacco and Stock and Poultry Food, Aust., December 1989 (8359.0; \$8.50)

Production of Paper, Plastics, Paints, Industrial Chemicals and Detergents, Aust., January 1990 (8362.0; \$5.50)

Production of Transport Equipment, Aust., January 1990 (8363.0; \$3.50)

Production of Metal Products, Aust., January 1990 (8367.0; \$4.50)

Production of Energy Products, Aust., January 1990 (8368.0; \$3.50)

Census of Mining Establishments: Industry Concentration Statistics Aust., 1987–88 (8411.0; \$7.50)

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, February 1990 (8504.0; \$5.00)

Travel Agency Services Industry, Aust., 1986–87 (8653.0; \$7.50) — *new issue*

Hotels and Bars and Accommodation Industries, Aust., 1986–87 (8656.0; \$7.50) — *new issue*

Engineering Construction Survey, Aust., December Qtr 1989 (8762.0; \$8.00)

Building Approvals, NSW, February 1990 (8731.1; \$8.60)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., January 1990 (8741.2; \$8.00)

Building Activity, Vic., December Qtr 1989 (8752.2; \$8.50)

Building Activity, WA, December Qtr 1989 (8752.5; \$8.00)

Tourist Accommodation, NT, December Qtr 1989 (8635.7; \$8.00)

Tourist Accommodation: Hotels and Motels, ACT, December Qtr 1989 (8635.8; \$4.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., February 1990 (9303.6; \$4.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 24 April 1990

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Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia,
January 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)

Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and
Expected Expenditure to June 1991, December Qtr 1989
Survey (5626.0; \$8.50)

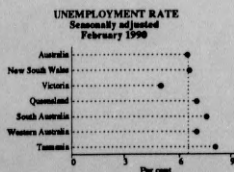
The Labour Force, Australia, March 1990, Preliminary
(6202.0; \$8.50)

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Retail Trade, Australia, February 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
10 April 1990



Statistics Weekly
12 April 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 89)*	15.9	24.8	15.2	0.0	45.4	-26.7	n.a.	n.a.	20.0
Retail turnover (Jan. 90) (trend estimate)	8.2	7.9	10.1	4.7	8.0	6.9	n.a.	7.0	8.0
New motor vehicle registrations (Feb. 90)*	3.1	10.8	6.0	36.6	-5.5	n.a.	0.5	8.6	7.1
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Feb. 90)	-27.2	-25.7	-28.8	6.8	-29.8	11.9	30.2	30.4	-23.8
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr)	20.5	25.8	28.1	30.9	36.5	18.2	1.8	6.4	24.8
Employed persons (Feb. 90)*	1.8	3.9	5.4	2.0	2.2	7.0	-2.6	6.2	3.2
Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 89)	7.4	8.5	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.4	7.5	6.5	7.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (November 89)	7.9	6.8	3.7	6.9	6.4	4.7	7.6	4.6	6.6
Population (Sept. 89)	0.9	1.2	3.2	1.0	2.9	0.8	0.0	1.7	1.6
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Sept. qtr 89)	-8.5	19.0	-24.5	13.8	4.5	-6.6	2.1	-6.7	-7.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

			Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 89	98,703	91,531	0.9	10.8
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	69,796	64,190	-0.2	4.2
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices (f)	\$m	Dec. qtr 89	7,826	7,173	-2.3	4.8
	— 1984-85 prices (f)	"	"	5,915	5,436	-4.1	0.2
Expected new capital expenditure (f)		"	Six months to June 90	15,245	n.a.	n.a.	8.3
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Jan. 90	6682	6970	0.6	6.6
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Dec. qtr 89	16,697	14,831	0.2	3.7
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	Feb. 90	48,213	52,901	-1.3	7.1
Dwelling unit approvals		"	Feb. 90	11,087	11,948	5.0	-23.8
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	1,981	2,398	-15.5	-3.9
Value of total building work done	— current prices (e)	"	Sept. qtr 89	7,973	7,583	-1.8	24.7
	— 1984-85 prices (e)	"	"	5,237	4,999	-3.9	11.2
Manufacturers' sales		"	Dec. qtr 89	37,329	35,539	3.1	9.9
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to June 90	71,716	n.a.	n.a.	9.7
Labour							
Employed persons (f)		'000	Feb. 90	7,809.1	7,855.3	-0.1	3.2
Unemployment rate † (f)		%	"	7.1	6.5	0.4	-0.2
Participation rate † (f)		"	"	63.8	63.7	0.1	0.7
Job vacancies		'000	"	60.9	56.1	-15.0	-15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.4	1.4	-8.7	-3.5
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Dec. qtr 89	200.7	n.a.	1.9	7.8
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Jan. 90	119.2	n.a.	0.8	7.8
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0		Jan. 90	559.8	n.a.	0.4	6.9
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Dec. qtr 89	5,575	4,523	-1.0	15.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	November 89	516.60	n.a.	1.6	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Feb. 90	16.25	n.a.	-0.4	-0.7
10-year Treasury bonds †			"	13.30	n.a.	0.5	-0.4
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Feb. 90	3,760	3,973	4.0	8.2
Imports of merchandise		"	"	3,808	4,044	12.4	-2.5
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	-48	-71	91.1	74.1
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	-204	-414	63.7	25.3
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,189	-1,370	32.2	-1.1
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Dec. qtr 89	n.a.	108.4	0.6	1.7
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	31 Dec. 89	118,391	n.a.	6.1	19.2
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	158,848	n.a.	5.0	19.5
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per \$A		Feb. 90	0.7598	n.a.	-2.9	-11.3
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	58.6	n.a.	-3.0	-8.4
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		Sept. 89	16.9	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitors	'000		Dec. 89	247	168	-0.1	-0.2

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 11 April 1990. (f) Later figures released Thursday, 12 April 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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